

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00816 301908Z

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5019

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 816

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN REQUEST FOR NON-LETHAL MILITARY AID

REF: (A) KIGALI 815 (B) KIGALI 638

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL (A), PRES HABYARIMANA ASKED ME JUNE 28 FOR WORD ON USG RESPONSE TO HIS APPEAL FOR LOW-LEVEL MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AND I GAVE HIM GENERAL RUN-DOWN -- WITH APPROPRIATE CAUTIONARY NOTES -- ON WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS.

2. AS FOLLOW-UP, AND TO KEEP DIPLOMATIC RECORD STRAIGHT, I WOULD LIKE NOW TO SUBMIT INTERIM RESPONSE TO GOR DIPLOMATIC NOTE, AGAIN CITING OUR POLICY PROBLEMS AS WELL AS NOTING RWANDAN ARUGMENTS. REQUEST DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS AND CONCURRENCE. ALSO, SINCE SUBJECT IS ONE CLASSIFIED "SECRET" BY GO AND THEREFORE NOT SUITABLE FOR OUR LOCAL TRANSLATOR, REQUEST DEPT (LS) PROVIDE FRENCH TRANSLATION APPROVED TEXT.

3. NOTE: RECOGNIZE TEMPTATION WILL ARISE TO EXCISE PARAS SEVEN AND EIGHT TO FACILITATE CLEARANCE PROCESS. URGE THIS TEMPTATION BE RESISTED SO THAT WE CAN BE ENTIRELY FRANK WITH GOR AS TO PROSPECTS, BOTH PRO AND CON.

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PAGE 02 KIGALI 00816 301908Z

BEGIN TEXT:

4. ". . . HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. 120/04.02.B9/CAB OF MAY 17, 1977, AND TO THE MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA IN BEHALF OF THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES WHICH WAS ENCLOSED WITH THE MINISTRY'S NOTE.

5. "THE EMBASSY WISHES TO ASSURE THE MINISTRY THAT IT HAS TAKEN CAREFUL NOTE OF THE REASONS MOTIVATING THE RWANDAN PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION, AS CONTAINED IN THE INTRODUCTORY PORTION OF THE MEMORANDUM, AND THAT IT HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO THESE REASONS IN TRANSMITTING THE RWANDAN PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. SPECIFICALLY, THE EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE RWANDAN ARMED FORCES TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING ROLES: (A) TO PROTECT THE RWANDAN POPULATION SO THAT IT MAY WORK IN PEACE TO IMPROVE ITS OWN WELL-BEING; (B) TO REINFORCE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ARMED FORCES THEMSELVES TOWARD NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND (C) TO ENHANCE RWANDAN INFLUENCE IN FAVOR OF A PEACEFUL BALANCE OF FORCES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

6. "AS THE MINISTRY IS AWARE, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES ACCREDITED TO RWANDA UNDERTOOK TO DISCUSS THE RWANDAN PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT DURING HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE EVENTUALLY JOINED BY A SPECIAL DELEGATION FROM THE RWANDAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND BY THE RWANDAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, WHO IN TURN PRESENTED THEIR OWN POINTS OF VIEW IN SUPPORT OF THE RWANDAN REQUEST TO NUMEROUS OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEFENSE AND IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KIGALI 00816 301908Z

AS A RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT WERE ASSURED THAT THE PROPOSAL WOULD RECEIVE PROMPT, SERIOUS, AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GLOBAL POLICIES REGARDING MILITARY COOPERATION NOW BEING FORMULATED AND REPIEVED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

7. "IN THE LATTER CONNECTION, THE RWANDAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE INFORMED, AND THE EMBASSY IS OBLIGED TO REITERATE, THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO BEND EVERY EFFORT TOWARD REDUCING THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY ARMS AND EQUIPMENT AMONG NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AS A MEANS OF CURBING DANGEROUS COMPETITIVE TRENDS AND REDUCING WASTE OF VALUABLE RESOURCES WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE SPENT ON DEVELOPMENT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS GENERAL POLICY NOW REQUIRE A DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT THAT SUCH TRANSFERS OF ARMS ARE NECESSARY IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. MOREOVER, EVEN SUCH EXCEPTIONAL CASES AS THESE USUALLY REQUIRE THAT THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY PAY FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT AS IT MAY RECEIVE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

8. "AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RECOGNIZES THE BASIC NEED OF EVERY SOVEREIGN STATE TO ASSURE ITS OWN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND THE DEFENSE OF ITS PEOPLES AND TO GUARANTEE THE CIVIC TRANQUILITY NECESSARY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. IT TAKES PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE ARMED FORCES IN MANY COUNTRIES IN CARRYING OUT ESSENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TASKS. AND IT IS AWARE THAT GOVERNMENTS OF MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LACK THE MEANS TO PURCHASE EVEN THE MOST ELEMENTAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY THEIR ARMED FORCES TO PERFORM THESE TASKS.

9. "IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL PROCEED TO EXAMINE IN DETAIL THE PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION IN EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING MADE BY THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT IN BEHALF OF ITS ARMED FORCES. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KIGALI 00816 301908Z

AS SOON AS A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE IS AVAILABLE, THE EMBASSY WILL BE PLEASED TO TRANSMIT IT TO THE MINISTRY. ENT TEXT. CRIGLER

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